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son, whereas in the east, a severe drought cut yields of all crops.

Some of the worst mistakes of last year may be avoided in the future. Yet it can be questioned whether in many areas an equal amount of input of labor and resources would not produce equal or better results if directed to growing crops more suitable than corn.

**Impact On Animal Husbandry.** The ultimate criterion of the success or failure of the corn program is its impact upon animal husbandry. The program was devised as a means of raising lagging production of feed for livestock, particularly hogs. Probably as much as two-thirds of the total 1955 acreage was to be harvested as green feed or for silage, with cobs to be ensilaged separately and fed to hogs and stalks saved as winter feed for dairy cattle.

Milk yields during the livestock year, which ended September 30, rose considerably; part of the increase, particularly that of kolkhoz herds, can probably be attributed to greater availabilities of green feed from corn during last summer. Harvesting and silaging difficulties were widespread and are known to have reduced the quantity and quality of the final product everywhere; however, it is too early to appraise the availability of silage and its effect upon future pork and milk production.

**Past Mistakes To Be Avoided.** The disappointing results were apparently too widespread to be passed over in silence. The press is now urging a thorough analysis of the causes for last year's shortcomings in order to prevent their recurrence. *Pravda*, the Party organ, was the first to sum up the results and admit that they were disappointing. Its December 9 editorial sounded a novel note: it charged that the Soviet press was publishing "one-sided," favorable reports and frequently exhibiting a "lighthearted, cocky" attitude toward corn growing. By giving the impression that corn would grow under any conditions, *Pravda* said, the press was harming the cause of corn growing by "demobilizing" the people.

Although such reporting has been characteristic of the press in general (Khrushchev has been the best example of "lightheartedness"), it may be noteworthy that the *Pravda*

editorial chose to single out the government organ *Izvestiya* as an example. *Izvestiya* first came up with a rebuttal, but later retreated, acknowledging as "entirely proper" *Pravda's* original charge, though not admitting directly that it had erred by printing the criticized article. Whether this exchange between the two organs reflects Party-government differences on the corn program, or at least on the way its progress should be treated in the press is uncertain. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

### USSR Launches Publications Drive

A campaign to raise subscriptions for satellite publications has been under way in the USSR for the past several weeks, according to Soviet press reports. Involved are 106 journals and over 1,200 newspapers published in the European satellites and in North Korea, North Vietnam, Outer Mongolia, and Communist China. Subscriptions may now be taken out to any of these publications by private individuals, houses of culture, clubs and libraries. Copies are also to be sold on newsstands. Heretofore Soviet citizens had generally been unable to subscribe to foreign publications, though some satellite newspapers and periodicals have appeared on Moscow newsstands since August 1954.

Soviet authorities have also announced that efforts will be made to promote the sale of books published in the satellites. Special sections have been set up in book stores in large cities throughout the country for the placing of orders for such books and in Moscow a special store is being established for this purpose.

Soviet citizens are still unable to subscribe to non-Communist books and periodicals. A limited number of workers in specialized research or higher educational institutions have access to Western publications. It was recently announced, however, that the USSR will have published translations of over 400 foreign books on industrial technology, agriculture, and the exact sciences during the period 1955-56, together with about 700 surveys, communications, and collections of articles on the latest industrial techniques taken from the foreign press. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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